

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 MMO-01 A-01

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USPS-01 USSS-00 SCCT-01 INSE-00 PPT-01 OC-06 /065 W

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O 161126Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1163

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6315

FOR BEIRUT WORKING GROUP AND ADMINISTRATOR SCA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, LE

SUBJECT: REDUCTION IN STAFF AND SUSPENSION OF SOME CONSULAR SERVICES
AT BEIRUT

1. REDUCTION IN STAFF REQUIRES CESSATION OF ALL VISA SERVICES UNTIL SUCH TIME AS SITUATION IN BEIRUT PERMITS RESTORATION OF FULL CONSULAR SERVICES. ROUTINE PASSPORT SERVICES, WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS, AND CHECKS FOR FEDERAL BENEFICIARIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE. THREE EXPERIENCED LOCALS WILL REMAIN AT BEIRUT. LACK OF POSTAL SERVICE, BREAKDOWN OF TELEPHONE SYSTEM, ABSENCE OF AMERICAN TOURISTS AND RELEASE OF PRISONERS CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCTION IN WORKLOAD OF AMERICAN SERVICES SECTION. BUDGET AND FISCAL OFFICER WILL COMBINE ADMIN AND CONSULAR FUNCTIONS.

2. PROPOSE TRANSFER VISA FILES AND RECORDS TO ATHENS. IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT NUMBER OF VISA APPLICANTS ALREADY IN DAMSCUS AND NICOSIA, HOWEVER, ATHENS OFFERS BETTER TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR BOTH STAFF AND APPLICANTS. CONSUL GENERAL DAVIS AT ATHENS HAS OFFERED ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE. THREE REMAINING CONSULAR OFFICERS: RUSSELL, STAPLETON AND BUDEIT,
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TO BE TRANSFERRED TDY ATHENS TO ASSIST WITH ADDITIONAL WORK-

LOAD AND AWAIT RETURN TO POST FOR RESTORATION OF SERVICES. TWO LOCAL EMPLOYEES: BEDROS ANSERIAN AND GHADA KABBANI, ALSO TO BE TRANSFERRED TO ATHENS TDY AT ASSIST WITH FILES AND ISSUANCE DUE TO THEIR FAMILIARITY WITH ARABIC NAMES AND LANGUAGE. THREE OFFICERS NOT REQUIRED IN ATHENS FOR LONG PERIOD AND IF DEPARTMENT CAN ASSURE IMMEDIATE ASSIGNMENT OF EXPERIENCED OFFICER WHEN BEIRUT RESUMES VISA SERVICES, RUSSELL AVAILABLE FOR REASSIGNMENT.

3. PRINCIPAL CONSULAR PROBLEM REMAINING BEIRUT WILL BE CHECKS FOR FEDERAL BENEFICIARIES. JULY CHECKS NOT YET RECEIVED AND MANY MAY AND JUNE CHECKS NOT DISTRUBUTED. POSTAL AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS INOPERATIVE AND TRAVELLERS ARE IN DANGER, THEREFORE MANY UNABLE TO COLLECT CHECKS. HOWEVER, POST JUDGES IT BEST TO HOLD CHECKS FOR IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY TO THOSE PERSONS WHO COME TO OFFICE. THIS IS SOLE MEANS OF MONETARY SUPPORT TO MANY RETIRED PERSONS.

4. ALL CONSULAR OFFICES SHOULD BE ADVISED OF THIS TRANSFER OF FUNCTION AS WELL AS INS. INS MAY CEASE SENDING BEIRUT TELEGRAPHIC NOTIFICATION OF APPROVAL OF IMMIGRANT PETITIONS.

5. FOR ATHENS. PLEASE ADVISE MISS KABBANI TO REMAIN ATHENS.
SEELYE

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